

unit side body 3 is placed over an operation unit side body 2. FIG. 5 is a front view of the cellular telephone 1 in a closed state.

[0049] The cellular telephone 1 of the present embodiment includes the operation unit side body 2 as a second body and the display unit side body 3 as a first body. The operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 are connected via the connecting portion 4 provided with a biaxial hinge mechanism. The connecting portion 4 makes the cellular telephone 1 switchable between the opened state and the closed state, and allows for switching of the display unit side body 3 between a front side state and a back side state both in the opened state and the closed state.

[0050] Here, the closed state is a state in which the bodies 2 and 3 are disposed so as to overlap each other. The opened state is a state in which the bodies 2 and 3 are disposed so as not to overlap each other. Here, the front side state in the opened state refers to a state in which a display 30 disposed on a front face 3A of the display unit side body 3 (described later) and the operation key group 11 disposed on the front face 2A of the operation unit side body 2 are disposed so as to face the same side (see FIG. 1). In addition, the back side state in the opened state refers to a state in which the display 30 in the display unit side body 3 and the operation key group 11 in the operation unit side body 2 are disposed so as to face opposite sides (see FIG. 3). Moreover, the front side state in the closed state refers to a state in which the display 30 in the display unit side body 3 is disposed to oppose the operation key group 11 in the operation unit side body 2 (see FIGS. 4 and 5). The back side state in the closed state refers to a state in which the display 30 in the display unit side body 3 is exposed without opposing the operation key group 11 in the operation unit side body 2 (not shown).

[0051] The operation unit side body 2 has an outer surface composed of a front case 2a and a rear case 2b. The operation unit side body 2 is configured to expose both an operation key group 11 on the front case 2a side and a sound input unit 12 where the sound of the user of the cellular telephone apparatus 1 is input when conversing. Here, the operation key group 11 is composed of: function setting operation keys 13 for operating various functions such as for various settings, a telephone number directory function and a mail function; an input operation key 14 such as ten keys for inputting digits of a telephone number and characters for mail, and a selection operation key 15 that performs confirmation of the various operations and scrolls up, down, left and right. The sound input unit 12 is disposed on an outer end portion side that is opposite to the connecting portion 4 side in a longitudinal direction of the operation unit side body 2. In other words, the sound input unit 12 is disposed in a first outer end portion side in the longitudinal direction of the operation unit side body 2 in the opened state of the cellular telephone 1.

[0052] Selected features are assigned to each of the keys (key assignment) composing the operation key group 11 according to a deformed state of the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3, such as the opened or closed state, the front side or back side state and the like, and the type of application that is running. An operation corresponding to a feature assigned to each key is executed by a user pressing one of the keys composing the operation key group 11 of the cellular telephone 1.

[0053] The display unit side body 3 has an outer surface composed of a front case 3a and a rear case 3b, and is substantially flat plate shaped. A display 30 (a first display) of a

predetermined shape for displaying a variety of information, and a sound output unit 31 that outputs sound of the other party of the conversation are disposed to be exposed on the front case 3a of the display unit side body 3. The sound output unit 31 is disposed on an outer end portion side that is opposite to the connecting portion 4 in the longitudinal direction of the display unit side body 3. In other words, the sound output unit 31 is disposed in a second end portion side in the longitudinal direction of the display unit side body 3 in the opened state of the cellular telephone 1.

[0054] A sub-display (a second display) 32 for displaying a variety of information is disposed to be exposed on the rear case 3b of the display unit side body 3. The display 30 and sub-display 32 are composed of a liquid crystal display panel, a drive circuit that drives the liquid crystal display panel, and a light source unit such as a backlight that irradiates light from the back face side of the liquid crystal display panel. In the present embodiment, the display (the first display) 30 is larger than the sub-display (the second display) 32. It should be noted that the display 30 and sub-display 32 can be configured from organic EL displays.

[0055] The connecting portion 4 includes a biaxial hinge mechanism 20. The biaxial hinge mechanism 20 is a connecting mechanism that connects the display unit side body 3 and the operation unit side body 2 to be openable and closable about an opening-and-closing axis X as a first rotational axis at an arbitrary angle, while being connected to be pivotable about a pivot axis Y at an arbitrary angle. The biaxial hinge mechanism 20 is provided inside a hinge case 6. The hinge case 6 is disposed on a lower end side of the display unit side body 3. In an upper end portion of the operation unit side body 2, a notch portion 5 into which the hinge case 6 is inserted is formed. Both sides of the notch portion 5 are a pair of shoulder portions 7. The hinge case 6 is inserted into the notch portion 5 so as to be interposed between the pair of shoulder portions 7.

[0056] As described above, in the cellular telephone 1, the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 are connected by the biaxial hinge mechanism 20 of the connecting portion 4 so as to be openable and closable, and pivotable. In such a configuration, the cellular telephone 1 can be transformed into various states by opening and closing the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 about the opening and closing axis X, and pivoting about the pivot axis Y.

[0057] For example, the cellular telephone 1 in the closed state (the first closed state) in which the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 overlap each other can be switched into the opened state (the first opened state) in which the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 do not overlap each other by transforming the cellular telephone 1 to open about the opening and closing axis X such that respective end portions, which are on opposite sides of the opening and closing axis X, of the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 are spaced apart from each other.

[0058] On the other hand, the cellular telephone 1 in the opened state (the first opened state) can be switched to the closed state (the first closed state) by transforming the cellular telephone 1 to close about the opening and closing axis X such that respective end portions, which are on opposite sides of the opening and closing axis X, of the operation unit side body 2 and the display unit side body 3 approach each other.